

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1246**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk**

February 22, 2005

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An act to ~~amend Section 51421 of~~ *add Sections 8238 and 8239 to* the Education Code, relating to ~~high school equivalency certificates~~ *preschool programs*.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1246, as amended, Wolk. ~~High school equivalency certificates~~ *Prekindergarten content standards*.

*Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer all state preschool programs and general child care and development programs, with certain requirements.*

*This bill would require the Superintendent, by January 1, 2007, and in consultation with experts from the field of early childhood education, to develop and adopt prekindergarten content standards and to develop prekindergarten curriculum frameworks in four core content areas, as specified. The bill would authorize the Superintendent to develop and adopt prekindergarten curriculum standards in additional content areas. The bill would require that these content standards and curriculum frameworks be developed and adopted by the Superintendent using existing funding and resources.*

~~Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a high school equivalency certificate and an official score report, or an official score report only, to a person who has not completed high school and who meets specified requirements, including passing a general educational development test. Existing law authorizes the Superintendent to charge an examinee a one-time fee to pay costs~~

~~related to administering the test and issuing a certificate, as specified. Existing law limits the amount of the fee to \$20 per person. Existing law makes an examinee responsible for submitting to the Superintendent requests for copies of the certificate and requests to forward a report of results of the test to postsecondary educational institutions.~~

~~This bill would delete the requirement that the fee be a one-time fee, and make an examinee responsible for submitting to the superintendent a request to issue an amended certificate, for specified purposes.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     ~~SECTION 1. Section 51421 of the Education Code is~~  
2     ~~amended to read:~~

3     *SECTION 1. Section 8238 is added to the Education Code, to*  
4     *read:*

5     *8238. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
6     *following:*

7     *(1) The achievement gaps that exist among pupils in*  
8     *elementary school first become evident in kindergarten, and*  
9     *these gaps can often be traced back to young pupils who began*  
10    *school unprepared to meet the expectations of our educational*  
11    *system.*

12    *(2) A high quality preschool experience is essential to prepare*  
13    *young children to meet the high expectations of California's*  
14    *public schools. Moreover, the advantages of preschool hold for*  
15    *all children.*

16    *(3) In addition to mastering academic content, young children*  
17    *in high quality preschool programs also develop social,*  
18    *emotional, cognitive, and physical skills that they need in order*  
19    *to grow and learn. Preschool learning is both purposeful and*  
20    *playful.*

21    *(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that*  
22    *would require the department to develop preschool standards*  
23    *that will accomplish all of the following:*

24    *(1) Prepare young children for success in school and close the*  
25    *achievement gap.*

1     (2) Define the knowledge and skills that preschool age  
2 children should acquire in order to establish a foundation for  
3 learning in the early elementary years.

4     (3) Be age appropriate in helping preschool children develop  
5 the early literacy and early numeracy skills that they will need in  
6 order to be ready for kindergarten and grade 1.

7     SEC. 2. Section 8239 is added to the Education Code, to  
8 read:

9     8239. (a) (1) By January 1, 2007, the Superintendent, in  
10 consultation with experts from the field of early childhood  
11 education, shall develop proposed prekindergarten content  
12 standards, and shall adopt those prekindergarten content  
13 standards pursuant to this section.

14     (2) The standards shall be fully aligned with the content  
15 standards developed pursuant to Section 60605.

16     (3) The standards shall cover the four core content areas,  
17 including, but not limited to, reading/language arts,  
18 mathematics, history/social science, and science, and may cover  
19 additional content areas.

20     (4) The standards shall be made available for public review  
21 and comment, and the Superintendent shall hold regional  
22 hearings for the purpose of giving parents and other members of  
23 the public the opportunity to comment on the standards before  
24 the standards are adopted.

25     (b) Upon the adoption of the standards, the Superintendent  
26 shall develop prekindergarten curriculum frameworks for the  
27 four core content areas, including reading/language arts,  
28 mathematics, history/social science, and science. The  
29 Superintendent may develop prekindergarten curriculum  
30 frameworks in additional content areas, upon adoption of  
31 standards pursuant to subdivision (a).

32     (c) The content standards and curriculum frameworks described  
33 in subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be developed and adopted by the  
34 Superintendent using existing funding and resources.

35     (d) The content standards and curriculum frameworks  
36 developed pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall apply to  
37 programs funded pursuant to this article and programs serving  
38 three- and four-year-old children pursuant to Article 8  
39 (commencing with Section 8240).

1     ~~51421. (a) The Superintendent may charge a fee, established~~  
2 ~~by the State Board of Education, to be submitted by an examinee~~  
3 ~~when registering for the test sufficient in an amount not greater~~  
4 ~~than the amount required to pay the cost of administering this~~  
5 ~~article, including costs related to subdivision (b), and for the cost~~  
6 ~~of providing services related to the completion of the general~~  
7 ~~educational development test. The amount of each fee may not~~  
8 ~~exceed twenty dollars (\$20) per person.~~

9     ~~(b) The examinee shall be responsible for submitting to the~~  
10 ~~Superintendent all of the following requests:~~

11     ~~(1) A request for a duplicate copy of the high school~~  
12 ~~equivalency certificate.~~

13     ~~(2) A request to forward a report of the results of a general~~  
14 ~~educational development test to a postsecondary educational~~  
15 ~~institution.~~

16     ~~(3) A request to issue an amended certificate in order to~~  
17 ~~indicate a change regarding the holder of the certificate,~~  
18 ~~including a change in name or gender.~~